

Interagency Florida Panther Response Plan

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INTRODUCTION

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and National Park Service (NPS) are the primary agencies responsible for the protection, management, and recovery of the endangered Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*). These agencies are committed to (1) educating Florida residents and visitors about the Florida panther, (2) providing safety guidelines for residents and visitors in panther habitat, and (3) providing protocols for responding to human-panther interactions and depredations in a timely and effective manner. The goal of the Interagency Florida Panther Response Plan (Response Plan), developed by FWC, FWS, and NPS, is to promote public safety while assuring the conservation of the panther.

The Florida panther is one of the rarest large mammals in the United States. Historically, the panther was distributed from eastern Texas or western Louisiana and the lower Mississippi River Valley, east through the southeastern United States including all of Florida (Young and Goldman 1946). Although occasional sightings and signs were reported throughout the rural Southeast between 1950 and 1980, the only confirmed panther population was found in south Florida (Anderson 1983). Geographic isolation of the Florida panther, combined with habitat loss, population decline and associated inbreeding, resulted in significant loss of genetic variability and decline in the overall health of the population. To restore genetic variability, eight female Texas panthers were released in strategic locations within south Florida in 1995. Due primarily to genetic augmentation, the population grew from less than 50 panthers in 1995 to the current population of approximately 80-100. All offspring of the Texas panthers are considered to be Florida panthers.

The panther is listed as endangered under both the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Florida law. As more humans move into panther habitat, the potential for human-panther interactions and domestic animal depredations increases, thereby raising public safety awareness issues. Conflicts with humans raise issues that require careful consideration and action to conserve the species while the safety of the public remains paramount.

The Response Plan includes guidelines for the agencies responding to human-panther interactions and depredations. Also, the plan provides guidelines for developing an outreach and education program to help people understand panther behavior and actions humans should take when living or recreating in panther habitat.

INTERAGENCY FLORIDA PANTHER RESPONSE PLAN

The FWS, NPS, and FWC established an Interagency Florida Panther Response Team (Response Team) to respond to human-panther interactions in such a way to ensure public safety and the continued existence and recovery of the Florida panther. The Response Team, comprised of biologists, law enforcement officers, public information staff, and other agency representatives (Appendix 1), will follow the Response Plan to handle human-panther interactions and depredations.

The Response Team's responsibility will be to review information related to human-panther interactions and depredations, classify these situations based on the documented behavior of the panther, provide a timely action plan to the responsible agencies, and take appropriate action. The Response Team will meet at least annually to review previous activities and suggest needed revisions to the Response Plan for consideration by each agency's chain-of-command. Additional meetings may be held as needed. A comprehensive annual report summarizing the Response Team's actions will be provided to a senior-level Oversight Committee consisting of the FWS Southeast Regional Director, the FWS Refuge Manager of Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), the NPS Southeast Regional Director, the NPS Superintendent of Everglades National Park, the NPS Superintendent of Big Cypress National Preserve, and the FWC Executive Director. The Oversight Committee will approve revisions to the Response Plan, review actions by the Response Team, and provide guidance if warranted. For interactions classified as an Incident, Threat, or Attack, the Committee will be informed immediately and will coordinate actions with the Response Team.

This Response Plan draws upon the approaches used by western states to manage their puma populations but also recognizes the special needs posed by the endangered status of the Florida panther. Interactions between humans and pumas in the western states range from depredation upon livestock or pets, fleeting glimpses, repeated sightings, aggression towards humans without physical contact, and, in rare cases, attacks upon people. Most western states have protocols in place to document, investigate, and manage these incidents to increase public safety.

Under State and Federal laws and regulations, panther management and protection are the primary responsibility of the FWS and the FWC. The Florida panther is protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16USC1531-1544) (ESA) and Florida Administrative Code (FAC) 68A-27. The NPS is responsible for coordinating panther management on NPS lands. These three agencies are integral to the management, conservation, and recovery of the panther and are committed to enforcing all applicable Federal and State laws. Florida panther capture and handling activities are permitted by the FWS through section 10 of the ESA and by the FWC under Title 68A of the FAC. Panther management activities on Seminole and Miccosukee Tribal lands are closely coordinated with Tribal members and designated Tribal employees. Necessary management actions will not exclude either Tribe from exercising their customary use and occupancy rights where they exist on NPS lands (Public Law 93-440 and Public Law 100-301).

INTERAGENCY FLORIDA PANTHER RESPONSE TEAM COMPOSITION, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND REPORTING

The Response Team includes biologists, law enforcement officers, and public information staff from FWC, FWS, and NPS (Appendix 1). Reports of human-panther interactions and depredations shall be directed to the appropriate agency based on the location of the interaction. In most cases of reported human-panther interactions and depredations, law enforcement officers and biologists will be the first agency personnel to respond. The lead agency will be responsible for collecting details and pertinent information and reporting those findings to the Response Team. Investigations will involve an assessment of the level of public concern by the Response Team's public information/outreach personnel. Communication with the Response Team will be accomplished by a variety of means including phone calls and emails.

The Response Team recognizes the critical importance of prompt and appropriate responses to potential public safety concerns that may occur because of human-panther interactions and depredations. The team will place a high priority on the efficient and timely completion of investigations, the development of recommendations, and the initiation of appropriate actions. If human-panther interactions occur outside of south Florida, the Response Team will coordinate with, and support, agency staff in those areas as needed. Response to interactions will include close coordination with local law enforcement and animal services agencies. These actions also will include outreach to inform the media, public and local elected officials of the interactions in a timely manner.

Geographic areas of responsibility shall be as follows:

- (1) NPS team members shall take the lead in managing human-panther interactions and depredations within the perimeter boundaries of Big Cypress National Preserve and Everglades National Park. NPS team members from Everglades National Park will be responsible for responding to the Miccosukee Reserved Area lands within the Park. If the situation involves non-federal in-holdings, NPS will coordinate with FWC.
- (2) FWS team members shall take the lead in dealing with human-panther interactions and depredations within the perimeter boundaries of Florida Panther NWR or on any other FWS property within Florida.
- (3) On Seminole and Miccosukee Tribal lands, the FWS (Florida Panther NWR Manager, Office of Law Enforcement agent or the Southeast Regional Native American liaison) will coordinate with the Tribes' designated representatives and the Response Team to address the Tribes' concerns regarding panther issues. FWC will provide logistical support as needed.
- (4) On all other lands in Florida (including military bases, National Forests and other public lands), the FWC team members shall take the lead on human-panther interactions and depredations. Access to private lands will be coordinated with the landowners. Because the

FWC has a full-time panther capture team and the other agencies do not, the FWC will assist the other agencies as needed.

CLASSIFICATION AND RESPONSE TO HUMAN-PANTHER INTERACTIONS AND DEPREDATIONS

The Response Team identified five human-panther interaction classifications: Sighting(s), Encounter, Incident, Threat, and Attack. Panther depredation on domestic animals is discussed separately. When investigating an interaction or depredation, agency personnel will determine if a panther was present and if so, evaluate its behavior and conduct a risk assessment. The Cougar Management Guidelines (Cougar Management Working Group 2005) provide guidance in developing human risk criteria for each classification. Normally, interactions are between panther, people, and prey and the resulting behavior of the panther can be interpreted as an indicator of the potential risk to the human (Table 1). Some interactions will not fit clearly into a specific category, but will have to be evaluated on individual circumstances of the particular situation. Additionally, humans may unintentionally provoke undesirable behavior in a panther by running away and triggering the chase behavior, not allowing the animal an escape route, or approaching an animal that is feeding or has young. Any interaction that was intentionally caused by humans will be thoroughly investigated. All these factors will be considered when classifying human-panther interactions and depredations.

The Response Team members making the first contact will secure the site if necessary, gather information, complete the Public Interview Form, and distribute the completed form along with a preliminary assessment of the situation to the entire Response Team. If further investigation is warranted, a Field Investigation Report will be completed and forwarded to the Response Team. The Response Team members will review the preliminary assessment and make the final classification. Certain situations might require immediate action on the part of the Response Team without participation by all team members.

Radio-telemetry has been utilized by biologists for over 25 years to gather life history information about Florida panthers. Locations of panthers derived from radio-telemetry equipment merely define the animal's position at a given time. When telemetry shows that a panther's location may be cause for concern, the Response Team will evaluate the level of significance of these locations based on the animal's behavior as outlined in the listed classifications.

On rare occasions, panthers have been located within urbanized areas. Typically, these individuals are young, dispersing males in search of new territory. In past cases, the panther has resolved the situation by leaving the highly populated area and returning to more suitable panther habitat. As human development continues to encroach on the remaining panther habitat, the occurrence of panthers in suburban or even urban environments is more likely. Verified sightings in areas that are clearly not panther habitat and that are densely populated, such as business districts, highly commercial areas, dense housing developments or other suburbs, will be investigated promptly and evaluated by the Response Team.

If a panther's behavior indicates a threat to human safety, it will be permanently removed from the wild. The ESA permits the removal of an endangered species that "constitutes a demonstrable but not immediate threat to human safety..." If the panther's location presents a possible threat to public safety (e.g., a dispersing male panther wanders into an urban neighborhood and cannot find its way out) or there is a threat to the survival of the panther (e.g. a panther wanders into an area that contains numerous physical hazards), depending on specific circumstances, the panther may be captured and relocated to suitable habitat, if available, or to an approved captive facility. In extreme circumstances, euthanasia may be necessary.

Under certain circumstances, aversive conditioning will be utilized to manage a human-panther interaction or depredation situation. Aversive conditioning is an experimental management technique that utilizes non-lethal methods (loud noises, trained dogs, capture, marking, etc.) to cause an animal to associate humans with an unpleasant experience. In some circumstances, relocating the animal within its home range may serve as aversive conditioning. Although not an extensively researched technique, aversive conditioning has been utilized with a small number of individuals. Results have varied and depend on factors such as the degree of attraction to the area for food, cover, mating, etc. Aversive conditioning is not intended to alter instinctive prey choices, but rather to change the panther's behavior when in proximity to humans. Consequently, aversive conditioning may not be successful if the panther is attracted to prey and the prey attractant is not removed, enclosed in a proper facility, or excluded from the human-occupied location.

Aversive conditioning, by definition, causes disturbance to a panther and may result in take as defined in the ESA in the form of harassment and possibly harm. Agencies will minimize the extent of take associated with aversive conditioning and ensure that any such take is authorized, pursuant to section 7 and section 10 of the ESA. Radio-collaring is not an aversive conditioning technique, although when done, it is unpleasant to the animal and may serve as an initial step of aversive conditioning. Radio-collaring can only be done for research purposes under an ESA section 10(a)(1)(A) permit. Aversive conditioning should only be conducted by individuals who are knowledgeable about puma behaviors or have been trained to understand the concept and use of the technique. If the Response Team determines that aversive conditioning will be conducted near roads and highways, law enforcement personnel will assure that all safety precautions will be taken.

Table 1. Florida Panther Behaviors and Associated Risk to Humans

LOW RISK	LOW-MODERATE RISK	MODERATE-HIGH RISK	HIGH RISK
Retreats at sight of human	Takes a defensive posture, but then quickly retreats	Does not retreat when humans take offensive/aggressive actions	Unprovoked aggression or predatory behavior directed toward humans.
Displays a lack of attention or indifference to humans	Hiding	Hissing, snarling, and other vocalizations that make the panther conspicuous and communicates to the human that it is viewed as a threat to its safety or in defense of its young or cached prey	Close approach that requires a person to take defensive action to avoid direct contact
Displays a wariness of humans and does not approach	Shifting position	Body low to the ground; head may be up	Body and head low to ground; fur out; rear legs pumping
Several moments of mutual eye contact before retreating	Following behavior	Intense staring	Direct, physical contact between a panther and a human due to aggressive behavior on the part of the panther and not related to protection of kittens or cached prey
Makes various movements not directed at humans		Following behavior, coupled with hiding or a fairly rapid walk but punctuated by numerous stops	Crouches with tail twitching
Shows signs of curiosity including ears up, standing still temporarily and then retreating		Ears are slightly flattened or laid back	
		Twitching of tail	

HUMAN-PANTHER INTERACTIONS

SIGHTING(S): *A visual observation or fleeting glimpse of a panther from a distance.*

Risk Factor = LOW

Behavior:

- **Retreats at sight of humans**
- **Displays a lack of attention or indifference to humans**
- **Displays a wariness of humans and does not approach**

Panther sightings fall into two categories, verified - those with corroborating evidence and unverified - those without such evidence. Response Team biologists will examine any physical evidence provided by the public. A panther sighting with corroborating evidence will be considered a verified sighting. Photographs of the animal or photographs and/or casts of tracks can help with identifying the animal in question. Sightings in occupied panther range do not require any specific management action but can be used as an outreach opportunity. People reporting a panther sighting can be directed to PantherNet (www.myfwc.com/panther) to learn more about panthers in Florida. Verified sightings outside of the known occupied range and in high human-use areas (e.g., suburban, urban) will be investigated by a wildlife biologist and reported to the Response Team.

Repeated and Verified Sightings: *Repeated observations or confirmed reports of panther sign or activity at short time intervals in the same general area.*

Several panther sightings in locations that are inhabited by humans and that occur over the course of several days or weeks in the general area will result in field visits from agency personnel. The Response Team will evaluate if a panther that is sighted repeatedly in close proximity to people or inhabited structures poses a risk to public safety. The Response Team will also try to determine the cause of the repeated use (i.e., cached prey item, den, prey attractant). The Response Team members making the first contact will gather information, complete the appropriate forms, and distribute these completed forms along with a preliminary assessment of the situation to the entire Response Team. Multiple panther sightings are not necessarily indicative of any public safety concern; however, educating people about visiting, living, and recreating in panther habitat is always prudent. These situations should be treated as public outreach opportunities. The public will be provided with the “Living with Panthers” brochure or directed to visit PantherNet (myfwc.com/panther/) to download the brochure and safety tips.

The Response Team shall be notified of all verified repeated panther sightings and the entity receiving these sighting reports shall complete a Public Interview Form (Appendix 4). Completed forms shall be submitted via email to the Response Team within seven (7) days of the subsequent sightings. The Response Team will review the Panther Response Form, and

if management actions are warranted will coordinate resources among all affected agencies and will develop an action plan utilizing the appropriate actions listed in Appendix 2.

ENCOUNTER/MULTIPLE ENCOUNTERS: *An unexpected direct meeting or a series of meetings over a short period between a human and a panther. Panther exhibits non-threatening behavior. Multiple encounters involve the same panther, which over a short period has shown no aggression nor has deliberately approached people in an area.*

Risk Factor = LOW – MODERATE

Behavior:

- **Retreats at sight of humans**
- **Displays a lack of wariness to humans and does not approach**
- **Displays a wariness of humans and does not approach**
- **Makes mutual eye contact and then retreats**
- **Takes a defensive posture, but then quickly retreats.**
- **Makes various movements not directed at humans**
- **Shows signs of curiosity including ears up, standing still temporarily and then retreating.**

An initial response consisting of a site visit and interviews with observers will be conducted by law enforcement and biologists responsible for that geographic area within 24 hours after receiving the report. They will secure the area if warranted, document and evaluate the evidence and attempt to determine the cause of the encounter (i.e., cached prey item, den, and prey attractant). The Response Team shall be notified of all reported panther encounters within 24 hours of the site visit and interviews. The Response Team members making the first contact will gather information and complete the Public Information Form (Appendix 4) and a Field Investigation Report (if warranted). Completed forms with a preliminary assessment of the situation shall be submitted via email to the Response Team. If necessary the Response Team shall coordinate resources among all affected agencies and will develop an action plan utilizing the appropriate actions listed in Appendix 2.

INCIDENT: *An interaction between a panther and a human as described in an Encounter, except that the panther displays potentially threatening behavior.*

Risk Factor = MODERATE - HIGH

Behavior:

- **Does not retreat when humans take offensive/aggressive actions.**
- **Shows signs of curiosity including ears up, intent attention, may be shifting positions.**
- **Intense staring, following or hiding behavior.**

Natural panther behaviors such as defense of kittens or kills, or stalking prey may be perceived to be threatening by people; however, these occurrences are coincidental to a chance meeting and are not indicative of a public safety concern.

An initial response consisting of a site visit and interviews with observers will be conducted by law enforcement officers and biologists responsible for that geographic area no later than 12 hours after receiving the report. They will secure the area if warranted, document and evaluate the evidence, and attempt to determine the cause of the incident (i.e. cached prey item, den, and prey attractant). The agency initiating the investigation shall complete a Public Interview Form and a Field Investigation Report (Appendix 4) and submit them, along with a preliminary assessment of the situation, via email to the Response Team within 24 hours of the site visit.

The Response Team will review the reports and evaluate the presented evidence. The Response Team will make a final determination on the incident and provide written recommendations to the responsible agency via the agency's chain of command. This process ensures that one member from the Oversight Committee will review every recommendation. The Response Team shall coordinate resources among all affected agencies and will develop an action plan utilizing the appropriate actions listed in Appendix 2.

Not all of the listed actions will be applicable to every encounter and new techniques may be developed. Some of these actions may be implemented immediately by agency staff and prior to the involvement of the Response Team in order to provide for human and panther safety.

THREAT: *An unprovoked aggressive/predatory behavior toward a human that requires the individual to take defensive action to avoid direct contact.*

Risk Factor = HIGH

Behavior:

- **Crouches with tail twitching, intense staring, ears flattened, body low to the ground, head may be up (pre-attack behavior).**
- **Ears flat, fur out, tail twitching, body and head low to ground, rear legs pumping (attack imminent).**

A panther shall also be classified as a threat if these three circumstances occur:

- 1) the panther has been involved in a previous encounter, incident, or depredation;
- 2) the panther's behavior departs from expected or known behavior; and
- 3) previous management actions have not deterred the animal's actions.

Immediately after receiving the report, an initial response consisting of a site visit and interviews with observers will be conducted by law enforcement and biologists responsible for that geographic area. They will secure the area if warranted, document and evaluate the evidence, attempt to determine the cause of the panther's behavior (i.e., cached prey item, den, prey attractant) and permanently remove the panther. The Response Team will be notified by phone as soon as possible. The responding agency will complete immediately the Public Interview Form and Field Investigation Report (Appendix 4) and submit them, along with a preliminary assessment, via email to the Response Team and Oversight Committee. The Response Team shall coordinate resources among all affected agencies and will develop an action plan utilizing the appropriate actions listed in Appendix 2. Some of these actions may be implemented immediately by agency staff and prior to the involvement of the Response Team in order to provide for human safety.

Managing public safety and the conservation needs of an endangered species can be challenging and complex; however, a panther that poses a demonstrable threat to public safety shall be permanently removed from the wild. A panther deemed to be a public safety concern will not be relocated to another area because there are no suitable locations where a panther would not likely encounter human communities. There is no guarantee that relocated animals will remain in the release area. The relocated panther may cause a disruption of the local panther social structure, thereby creating local population instability and possibly contributing to additional intraspecific aggression. Permanent removal is the only management option for panthers that pose a demonstrable threat to human safety.

ATTACK: *A direct, physical contact between a panther and a human involving aggressive panther behavior.*

Risk Factor = HIGH

Immediately after receiving the report, an initial response consisting of a site visit and interviews with observers will be conducted by law enforcement officers and biologists responsible for that geographic area. They will secure the area if warranted, document and evaluate the evidence, and attempt to determine the cause of the panther's behavior (i.e. cached prey item, den, or prey attractant). The area will be closed to public use and area residents will be informed of the situation. Every effort will be made to immediately remove the panther from the wild. The Response Team shall be notified by phone as soon as possible. The responding agency will complete the Public Interview Form and Field Investigation Forms (Appendix 4) and submit them immediately, along with a preliminary assessment, via email to the Response Team and Oversight Committee. The Response Team shall coordinate resources among all affected agencies and will develop an action plan utilizing the appropriate actions listed in Appendix 2. Some of these actions may be implemented immediately by agency staff and prior to the involvement of the Response Team in order to provide for human safety.

Managing public safety and the conservation needs of an endangered species can be challenging and complex; however, a panther that attacks a human shall be permanently removed from the wild or destroyed. A panther deemed to be a public safety concern cannot be relocated to another area because there are no suitable locations where a panther would not likely encounter human communities. Permanent removal is the only management option for panthers that have attacked a human.

PANTHER DEPREDATION

DEPREDATION: *A panther that preys upon domestic pets (e.g., dogs, cats) or livestock (e.g., goats, pigs, horses, cows).*

Risk Factor = LOW

A suspected panther depredation located within the occupied range of the panther will require a field visit from agency personnel. Within 12 hours after receiving the report, an initial response consisting of a site visit and interviews with observers will be conducted by law enforcement officers and biologists responsible for that geographic area. They will secure the area if warranted, document and evaluate the evidence, and attempt to determine the cause of the panther's behavior (i.e., cached prey item, den, or prey attractant). The responding agency will complete the Public Interview Form and a Field Investigation Report (if warranted) (Appendix 4) and email them, along with a preliminary assessment, to the Response Team within 24 hours of the site visit and interviews. The Response Team will review the report, evaluate the evidence and provide recommendations to the responsible agency within 48 hours. The Response Team shall coordinate resources among all affected agencies and will develop an action plan utilizing the appropriate actions listed in Appendix 2.

Not all of the listed steps will be applicable to every depredation and new management techniques may be developed. Some of these steps may be implemented immediately and prior to the involvement of the Response Team to provide for human and panther safety.

Landowners will be provided information on how to protect pets and livestock. The landowner is responsible for protecting pets or livestock, particularly at night, using recommended methods. Depredations are natural panther behaviors and should not be considered as threatening to humans. If aversive conditioning is conducted, it is not intended to alter instinctive prey choices, but rather to discourage a panther from a specific location where non-native prey is available.

Multiple depredations by the same animal in a short period of time, behavior that departs from known or expected behavior, and failure of management actions to alter the animal's behavior may elevate a depredation to the THREAT classification.

OUTREACH STRATEGY

While the Response Plan outlines the actions the agencies will take to respond to human-panther interactions and depredations once they have occurred, FWC, FWS and NPS will also work to implement measures that will minimize human-panther interactions.

Outreach and education are the primary methods the agencies will use to minimize interactions and to promote coexistence between humans and panthers. Residents and visitors must be educated and informed about how they can live and safely enjoy recreational activities in panther habitat. Although there is no way to prevent all panther interactions, humans can modify their behavior to reduce risks and avoid conflicts and, thereby, help conserve and protect the panther.

The agencies developed this outreach strategy to educate south Florida residents and visitors how to coexist safely with panthers. The agencies will focus their efforts on the urban interface areas where human occupation may result in interactions between humans and panthers.

Together and in partnership with other stakeholders, FWC, FWS, and NPS will develop, produce, and distribute educational materials, including fact sheets, brochures, public service announcements (video, print, and/or radio), signage, and other medium. Topics for these materials will include: human safety, safety for pets and livestock, how to properly identify a panther and understand panther behavior, how to act if you encounter a panther, reducing attractants for panther and nuisance (raccoons, opossums, deer) or predatory (coyotes, bobcats, bears, etc) wildlife, and which agencies to contact to report a panther interaction, or depredation. When possible, community meetings will be held with local organizations and citizen groups to improve communication between the agencies and local residents on panther and wildlife issues. Close coordination with elected officials and local government agencies also is an important part of community outreach and education.

The outreach strategy identifies a list of key stakeholders that will be contacted, and categorizes outreach strategies into “immediate”, “mid-term”, and “long-term” strategies. These strategies will be implemented as soon as possible.

Key Stakeholders:

- Residents and homeowners in south Florida who live in or near Florida panther habitat. Primary counties include Collier, Lee, and Hendry. Secondary counties include Miami-Dade and Monroe. Key communities include Immokalee, Golden Gate Estates, Copeland, Belle Meade, and future developments in eastern Collier County, as well as residents on Seminole and Miccosukee lands.
- Builders, developers and real estate agents in the counties and communities identified above.
- Large landowners and ranchers in rural areas of the counties listed above.
- Visitors to panther habitat.
- City, County, State and Federal elected officials, and Tribal governments
- Public land management agencies
- Local law enforcement and animal control/services agencies
- News media

- Schoolchildren and school officials
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), environmental organizations (e.g., Friends of the Florida Panther Refuge, Florida Wildlife Federation, National Wildlife Federation, Defenders of Wildlife, etc)
- All Floridians
- Tourist service providers
- Local cooperative extension staff, National Resource Conservation Service staff, etc.
- Arborists, landscape services, etc.

Goals:

1. Minimize human-panther interactions and depredations and ensure public safety while also protecting the panther population.
2. Improve the public's knowledge on how to coexist with panthers, including:
 - a. how to properly identify a panther and understand panther behavior
 - b. how to act if a person encounters a panther
 - c. how to reduce the likelihood of attracting panthers near a residence by not intentionally feeding wildlife and properly caring for domesticated animals.
3. Educate the public about FWC, FWS, and NPS and their roles and responsibilities in panther management, including agency responses to human-panther interactions and depredations
4. Inform people that the panther population in the state, while still endangered, is increasing. Due to habitat destruction, suitable habitat is minimal, and people are moving into panther habitat, which may increase interactions with panthers.
5. Educate the public about the problems associated with attracting wildlife near residences with the ultimate goal of reducing attractants for predatory species such as bear, panthers, coyotes, bobcats, alligators and other small mammals that may cause harm to property such as raccoons, skunks, opossums, and armadillos.
6. Develop a coordinated and consistent agency approach in responding to human-panther interactions and domestic animal depredations.
7. Form partnerships with public agencies, private citizens, NGOs and Tribes to advance all other goals of the campaign.
8. Work with local developers that will be building in panther habitat to design residential and related developments that will minimize human-predator interactions.

Strategies:

All activities and materials will be jointly developed by the FWS, NPS, and FWC, but can be produced separately by each agency. Actions are prioritized as immediate, mid-term, and long-term and depend on funding and staff availability. Outreach goals and objectives will be re-evaluated each year and updated as needed.

Immediate (Currently being completed: Appendix 3)

- Create fact sheets to educate individuals that report an interaction with a Florida panther. Law enforcement, public information officers, wildlife biologists, and other responders will have these available to hand out to the public. Primary topics include:
 - “Panther proofing” residential property
 - Protecting livestock and pets

- How to react when seeing a panther
- Create informational signage for visitor use areas on public lands within panther habitat.
- Write Frequently Asked Questions to be available in print and on the web.
- Update and further develop Panther.net, the FWC's central panther website, with information specific for living safely in panther habitat.

Mid-term (2008)

Produce and distribute appropriate site bulletins and information materials (such as door hangers, posters and a suite of complementary brochures), to area residents, and visitors to panther habitat, on how to:

- "Panther proof" residential and recreational property,
- Protect livestock and pets
- React when seeing a panther in such a way that will protect them and the panther
- Develop PowerPoint presentation or videos for use at local trainings, outreach events, meetings, etc.
- Create print, radio, and/or broadcast public service announcements as part of a panther awareness campaign.
- Arrange for events where panther information is disseminated to key stakeholder organizations, such as school boards and homeowners associations.

Long-term (2007-2009)

- Develop curriculum-based education program similar to the FWC "Bear Aware" program. This may include a suite of coordinated materials such as litter bags, magnets, stickers, posters, and activity boxes for teachers, and other materials.
- Conduct media training for selected individuals within agencies.
- Host a press conference to announce the availability of panther awareness materials. This will be the kick-off to expanding media coverage of the response efforts by print and broadcast media across the state, but especially in the south Florida markets.
- Distribute media kits to all the relevant media/journalists on agency media contact lists.
- Conduct pre- and on-site orientation / tours for elected and tribal representatives to inform them of the issue and the response by agencies.
- Distribute Florida Panther Response information, including tips for living in panther country, via mass mailings produced in cooperation with a partner (Florida Power and Light, South Florida Water Management District, Embarq, BellSouth, and local utilities).
- Send direct mail pieces related to the campaign to the targeted neighborhoods.
- Identify opportunities for a short video and/or public broadcast program on the Florida panther.
- Consider creating a Florida panther liaison volunteer program. Neighborhood volunteers would be trained on how to live with Florida panthers and would serve as a resource to their neighbors.

Literature Cited

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Appendix 1.

Florida Panther Response Team

Response Team Members *

BCNP Biologist

BCNP Law Enforcement- Chief Ranger

BCNP Public Information Officer

ENP Biologist

ENP Law Enforcement-Chief Ranger

ENP Public Information Officer

FWC Panther Team Leader

FWC Law Enforcement

FWC Public Information Officer

FWS Panther Refuge Manager

FWS Panther Refuge Biologist

FWS Law Enforcement

FWS Panther Coordinator

FWS Public Information Officer

*Names and contact information (phone number, email, etc) will be updated and provided to all Response Team and Oversight Team members annually, or as needed to reflect the most current personnel information.

Appendix 2.

Classification	Action	Responsibility ¹
<p>SIGHTING: <i>A visual observation of a panther from a distance.</i></p> <p>Multiple sightings: <i>Repeated and verified panther sightings in locations that are inhabited by people and that occur over the course of several days or weeks. Multiple panther sightings are not necessarily indicative of any public safety concern.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide informational material. • Post areas with precautions and contact information. • Offer recommendations to the affected landowner and residents regarding improvements to domestic pet/livestock husbandry practices (e.g., wire fencing, electric fence, night enclosure). • Offer recommendations to the affected landowner and residents on landscape modifications to reduce attractiveness to panthers and prey species. • Remove any panther prey caches and cease all wildlife feeding. • Apply aversive conditioning techniques when appropriate 	<p>PIO</p> <p>LE</p> <p>PIO, WB</p> <p>PIO, WB</p> <p>WB, LE</p> <p>WB, LE</p>
<p>ENCOUNTER: <i>An unexpected direct meeting or a series of meetings over a 2-3 week period between a human and a panther, defined by several moments of mutual eye contact occurring before the panther retreats from the situation. The panther displayed non-threatening behavior, such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Displays a lack of wariness to humans.</i> ➤ <i>Retreats at the sight of humans.</i> ➤ <i>Takes a defensive posture, but then quickly retreats.</i> ➤ <i>Makes various movements not directed at humans.</i> ➤ <i>Shows signs of curiosity including ears up, stands still temporarily and then retreats.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct site visit and interviews within 24 hours after receiving report. • Provide informational material. • Post areas with precautions and contact information. • Offer recommendations regarding improvements to domestic pet/livestock husbandry practices. • Offer recommendations to the affected landowner and residents on landscape modifications to reduce attractiveness to panthers and prey species. • Remove any prey caches and cease all wildlife feeding. • Apply aversive conditioning techniques when appropriate. • Increase law enforcement patrols and monitoring in the area. 	<p>PIO</p> <p>LE</p> <p>PIO, WB</p> <p>PIO, WB</p> <p>WB, LE</p> <p>WB, LE</p> <p>LE</p>
<p>INCIDENT: <i>An interaction between a panther and humans as described in an Encounter, except that the panther displays potentially threatening</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial LE response ASAP; field visit within 12 hours. • Provide informational material. 	<p>LE, WB</p> <p>PIO</p>

Classification	Action	Responsibility ¹
<p><i>behavior, such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>A human-panther encounter occurs and the panther does not retreat when humans take offensive/aggressive actions.</i> ➤ <i>Displays behavior indicative of curiosity, including intent attention, ears up, may be shifting position.</i> ➤ <i>Intense staring, following, and hiding behavior.</i> <p><i>Natural panther behaviors such as defense of kittens or of kills may be perceived to be threatening by people; however, these occurrences are coincidental to a chance meeting and are not indicative of a continuing public safety concern.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post areas with precautions and contact information. • Offer recommendations to the affected landowner and residents regarding improvements to domestic pet/livestock husbandry. • Offer recommendations to the affected landowner and residents on landscape modifications to reduce attractiveness to panthers and prey species. • Remove any panther prey caches and cease all wildlife feeding. • Apply aversive conditioning techniques when appropriate. • Increase law enforcement patrols and monitoring in the area. 	<p>LE</p> <p>PIO, WB</p> <p>PIO, WB</p> <p>WB, LE</p> <p>WB, LE</p> <p>LE</p>
<p>THREAT: <i>An unprovoked aggressive/predatory behavior toward people including stalking or close approaches that require a person to take defensive action to avoid direct contact. A panther also may be classified as a threat if it has been involved in a previous encounter, incident, or depredation and its behavior departs from expected or known behavior and previous management actions have not deterred the animal's actions.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Crouches with tail twitching, intense staring, ears flattened, body low to the ground, head may be up (pre-attack behavior)</i> ➤ <i>Ears flat, fur out, tail twitching, body and head low to ground, rear legs pumping (attack imminent).</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct initial field visit (LE and biologists) immediately after receiving report. • Immediate, permanent removal of the offending panther from the wild. • Close the area where the threat occurred until the panther has been removed. • Inform local residents and other affected people of the threat. • Offer recommendations to the affected landowner and residents on landscape modifications to reduce attractiveness to panthers and prey species. • Post areas with precautions and contact information. • Remove any panther prey caches and cease all wildlife feeding. • Increase law enforcement patrols and monitoring in the area. 	<p>LE, WB</p> <p>WB, LE</p> <p>LE</p> <p>PIO</p> <p>PIO, WB</p> <p>LE</p> <p>WB, LE</p> <p>LE</p>
<p>ATTACK: <i>A direct, physical contact between a panther and a human resulting from aggressive panther behavior.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct initial field visit (LE and biologists) immediately after receiving report. 	<p>LE, WB</p>

Classification	Action	Responsibility ¹
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate, permanent removal of the panther from the wild. • Close the area where the attack occurred until the offending panther has been removed. • Increase law enforcement patrols and monitoring in the area. • Inform local residents and other affected people of the attack. • Post areas with precautions and contact information. • Offer recommendations to the affected landowner and residents regarding improvements to domestic pet/livestock husbandry practices. • Offer recommendations to the affected landowner and residents on landscape modifications to reduce attractiveness to panthers and prey species. • Remove any panther prey caches and cease all wildlife feeding. 	<p style="text-align: center;">WB, LE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PIO, WB</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PIO, WB</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PIO, WB</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WB, LE</p>
<p>DEPREDAATION: <i>A panther that preys upon domestic pets (e.g., dogs, cats), domestic livestock (e.g., goats, pigs), or farm/ranch livestock.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field visit within 12 hours • Provide informational material. • Offer recommendations regarding improvements to domestic pet/livestock husbandry. • Offer recommendations to the affected landowner and residents on landscape modifications to reduce attractiveness to panthers and prey species. • Remove any panther prey caches and cease all wildlife feeding. • Apply aversive conditioning techniques when appropriate. • Increase law enforcement patrols and monitoring in the area. 	<p style="text-align: center;">WB, LE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PIO</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PIO, WB</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PIO, WB</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WB, LE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WB, LE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LE</p>

¹LE–Law Enforcement PIO–Public Information Officer WB–Wildlife Biologist

Appendix 3: Florida Panther Response Plan – Outreach Plan

Table of Immediate Outreach Actions

IMMEDIATE				
Deliverable	Responsible Party	Distribution	Timeline	Cost/Funding Source
Create fact sheets to educate individuals that report an interaction with a Florida panther.	FWC will write and design, edits provided by NPS and FWS – all agency logos/contact information on final products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Law enforcement, public information officers, wildlife biologists and other responders will have these available to hand out to the public. ■ Web ■ Visitor centers, nature centers 	Completed	Prepared, duplicated in-house by agency writers and designers; costs absorbed by agency overhead
Create temporary informational signage for visitor use areas on public lands within panther habitat	FWC will write and design, review and edit by NPS and FWS – agency logos/contact information on final products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Florida Panther NWR ■ Big Cypress NP/Everglades NP ■ Florida Wildlife Management Areas ■ offered to public and private land managers, including FL DEP, FL state forests, South Florida Water Management District, and tribal lands 	Currently being completed.	TBD
Frequently Asked Questions	FWS to draft with edits provided by FWC and NPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Website of each agency ■ Copies made to distribute as requested to press/interested citizens 	Currently being completed	Prepared, duplicated in-house by agency writers and designers; costs absorbed by agency overhead
Update and further develop Panther.net, the FWC’s central panther website, with information specific for living safely in panther habitat.	FWC to draft with edits provided by FWS and NPS; hosted by FWC at http://www.myfwc.com/panther/	Web	Currently being completed	Prepared in-house by agency writers and designers; costs absorbed by agency overhead

* Mid-term and long-term outreach actions will be prioritized and implemented by outreach staff of FWC, FWS and NPS in partnership with local agencies, non-governmental organizations, landowners, and Tribal agencies.

Appendix 4. Interview and Report Forms

Report Tracking Information	Name _____
	Date _____

**Florida Panther Response Plan
Human-Panther Interactions and Depredations
PUBLIC INTERVIEW FORM**

REPORTING PARTY CONTACT INFORMATION

1.	What is the spelling of your name?	First _____ M.I. _____ Last _____
2.	What is your address?	Street address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County _____
3.	What are your telephone numbers?	H: () W: () C: ()
4.	What is your email address?	_____

DETAILS OF THE INTERACTION OR DEPREDAATION

5.	Was this an interaction or depredation?	_____
6.	What date did the event occur?	_____
7.	What time did the event occur?	_____ am / pm
8.	What is the total number of people that interacted with the animal?	_____
9.	What is the spelling of the names of the other people who were with you when you interacted with the animal?	What is the telephone number(s) of the other people who were with you when you interacted with the animal?
		a. _____ a. ()
		b. _____ b. ()
		c. _____ c. ()

10.	Where specifically did the interaction occur? (Include County/Municipality)	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
11.	What were you doing when the event occurred? (ex. hunting, hiking, yard chores, etc.)	<hr/>

ANIMAL DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICS OF INTERACTION OR DEPREDATION

12.	What size was the animal?	<hr/>
13.	What was the color of the animal?	<hr/>
14.	Were there any distinguishing characteristics of the animal? (<i>Did it have a radio collar?</i>)	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
15.	How close, at the closest point, was the animal from you or other members of your party?	<hr/> <hr/>
16.	What specifically did the animal do during the interaction? <i>For depredations list date and type</i>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
17.	Were there any sounds? (describe)	<hr/>
18.	Did you get a photograph or video?	<hr/>
19.	Would you be willing to provide your photograph or video to us?	<hr/>

REPORTING INFORMATION

	Person who initially called			
20.	Name _____	Telephone Number _____		
		Date _____	Time _____	
	Person who took the initial report			
21.	Name _____	Telephone Number _____		
	Agency _____	Title _____	Date _____	Time _____
	Person(s) conducting the interview			
22.	Name _____	Telephone Number _____		
	Agency _____	Title _____	Date _____	Time _____
	Name _____	Telephone Number _____		
	Agency _____	Title _____	Date _____	Time _____

AGENCY RESPONSE

		YES		NO	COMMENTS
23.	Was any action taken?				
24.	Information provided?				
25.	Will there be a field investigation?				

Report Tracking Information	Name _____
	Date _____

Florida Panther Response Plan Human Panther Interactions and Depredations

FIELD INVESTIGATION REPORT

1.	Investigation Date		2.	Date of event		
3.	Time of event		4.	County		
5.	Primary reporting party	Name _____		Phone number _____		
		Additioanl Numbers C: _____		W: _____		
		Mailing Address _____				
		Street, P.O. Box _____		City _____	State _____	Zip _____
		Email _____				

LOCATION INFORMATION

6.	General location description				
7.	Specific location description	UTM NAD		Easting _____	Longitude _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> 83	<input type="checkbox"/> 27	Northing _____	Latitude _____
8.	Location descriptor (check those that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/>	a. Urban residential	<input type="checkbox"/>	e. Public recreation land
		<input type="checkbox"/>	b. Rural residential	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 City/County Park
		<input type="checkbox"/>	c. Private ranch or recreational property	<input type="checkbox"/>	2 State Park/Nat. Area/Historic Site
		<input type="checkbox"/>	d. Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	3 State Wildlife Management Area
		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	4 Federal Lands
		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	5 Other _____

REPORTED FLORIDA PANTHER INFORMATION

9.	Description	Number adults: _____	Number kittens: _____	
		Size: _____	Distinctive markings: _____	
		Color: _____		
		Radio collar present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
10.	Distance from observer/other people _____	Feet _____	Yards _____	Meters _____

11.	How long was panther observed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Not seen	<input type="text"/> minutes																																	
12.	<p>If panther behavior was described, characterize from list below (check those items that apply)</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Retreated at sight of humans</td> <td style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Displayed lack of attention</td> <td style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Displayed warriness</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Made eye contact then retreated</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Various movements not directed at humans</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Curious, ears up, then retreated</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Defensive posture then retreats</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Shifting position, following</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Hiding</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Did not retreat when human took aggressive action</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Hissed, growled, snarled</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Body low to ground, head up</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Intense staring, tail twitching</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Following, coupled with hiding or rapid start and stop walking</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Ears slightly flattened</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Crouched with tail twitching</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Body and head low to ground, fur out, rear legs pumping</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Unprovoked aggression toward human</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Close approach that requires person to take action to avoid direct contact</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Physical contact not related to kittens or cached prey</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe): _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Depredation on pet or livestock</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Goat</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Sheep</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Pig</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Emu</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Dog</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> House cat</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other</td> <td colspan="5"></td> </tr> </table>			<input type="checkbox"/> Retreated at sight of humans	<input type="checkbox"/> Displayed lack of attention	<input type="checkbox"/> Displayed warriness	<input type="checkbox"/> Made eye contact then retreated	<input type="checkbox"/> Various movements not directed at humans	<input type="checkbox"/> Curious, ears up, then retreated	<input type="checkbox"/> Defensive posture then retreats	<input type="checkbox"/> Shifting position, following	<input type="checkbox"/> Hiding	<input type="checkbox"/> Did not retreat when human took aggressive action	<input type="checkbox"/> Hissed, growled, snarled	<input type="checkbox"/> Body low to ground, head up	<input type="checkbox"/> Intense staring, tail twitching	<input type="checkbox"/> Following, coupled with hiding or rapid start and stop walking	<input type="checkbox"/> Ears slightly flattened	<input type="checkbox"/> Crouched with tail twitching	<input type="checkbox"/> Body and head low to ground, fur out, rear legs pumping	<input type="checkbox"/> Unprovoked aggression toward human	<input type="checkbox"/> Close approach that requires person to take action to avoid direct contact	<input type="checkbox"/> Physical contact not related to kittens or cached prey		<input type="checkbox"/> Goat	<input type="checkbox"/> Sheep	<input type="checkbox"/> Pig	<input type="checkbox"/> Emu	<input type="checkbox"/> Dog	<input type="checkbox"/> House cat	<input type="checkbox"/> Other					
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<input type="checkbox"/> Other																																				

CREDIBILITY OF REPORT

13.	<p>a. Verified with physical evidence? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>b. Evidence observed/obtained by the investigator:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Tracks</td> <td style="width: 15%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Photo</td> <td style="width: 15%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Prey carcass</td> <td style="width: 15%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Scat</td> <td style="width: 15%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Scrape</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Fur</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Not searched</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> </table> <p>Confirmation of evidence: (e.g., examined by Response Team?) _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>c. If not verified by physical evidence, is reported event considered credible? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Explain _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>d. Mitigating circumstances if no physical evidence obtained.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Poor tracking substrate</td> <td style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Rain since event</td> <td style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Elapsed time since event</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Evidence destroyed/buried</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tracks	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo	<input type="checkbox"/> Prey carcass	<input type="checkbox"/> Scat	<input type="checkbox"/> Scrape	<input type="checkbox"/> Fur	<input type="checkbox"/> Not searched	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____			<input type="checkbox"/> Poor tracking substrate	<input type="checkbox"/> Rain since event	<input type="checkbox"/> Elapsed time since event	<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence destroyed/buried	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
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<input type="checkbox"/> Poor tracking substrate	<input type="checkbox"/> Rain since event	<input type="checkbox"/> Elapsed time since event															
<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence destroyed/buried	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____																

DEPREDAATION DETAILS

14.

a. Animals Depredated		#	Fatal	Injury	Missing	Age	Sex	Weight
<input type="checkbox"/>	Goat	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Emu	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pig	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dog _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cat	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	_____

Date(s) animals killed or missing _____

Time animals discovered killed or missing _____

Injury details _____

b. Carcass Information

Carcass found? Yes No Number of days deceased? _____

Carcass fed upon? Yes No

Carcass cached? Currently Previously No

Carcass location In pen Out of pen Distance from pen _____

If carcass not found, any evidence to explain disappearance? Yes No

If yes, explain Predator tracks Predator hair Drag marks
 Prey hair Fence bent/broken Other _____

c. Predator Information

Panther Bobcat Bear Dog Undetermined Other _____

If panther: Male Female Collared ID _____ Uncollared

Evidence for predator determinatiior
 Tracks Feeding/attack method Hair Other _____

d. Description of husbandry conditions (eg. style and condition of fence, enclosure details, etc)

14. e. Repeat location? Yes No Date(s) of previous depredations _____
 Animals previously depredated _____

f. Additional details _____

INTERACTION TYPE

15. Characterize the interaction type based on the totality of evidence and information

<input type="checkbox"/> Sighting (visual observation or sign of panther only)	<input type="checkbox"/> Threat (an unprovoked aggressive/predatory behavior toward a human that requires the individual to take defensive action to avoid direct contact)
<input type="checkbox"/> Encounter (an unexpected, direct neutral meeting between a panther(s) and human(s))	<input type="checkbox"/> Attack (physical contact between a panther and a human involving aggressive panther behavior)
<input type="checkbox"/> Incident (an interaction between a panther(s) and human(s) in which the panther displays potentially threatening behavior (no immediate retreat, intent attention/staring))	<input type="checkbox"/> Depredation (panther preys upon domestic pets/livestock)

ATTACK REPORT

16. Attack documented? Yes No

a. Number person(s) attacked _____

b. Gender and age of those attacked

	<i>gender</i>	<i>age</i>		<i>gender</i>	<i>age</i>
(1)	_____	_____	(4)	_____	_____
(2)	_____	_____	(5)	_____	_____
(3)	_____	_____	(6)	_____	_____

c. Type of attack non-injury injury fatality

Describe: _____

Appendix D